

# The Baptist Record

Thursday, February 27, 1992

Published Since 1877

## Florida church gives money despite debt

By Jack Brymer

WINTER PARK, Fla. (BP) — Despite a debt of \$750,000 and the need to improve and enlarge its own worship center, First Church of Winter Park, a suburb of Orlando, has created a foundation and given \$2.5 million in "seed money" for church planting, primarily in Florida.

Also, the church's pastor of 20 years, John C. Mitchell, resigned Dec. 31, 1991, to become the foundation's executive director.

Taking its name from real estate in which the church invested 10 years ago, the Pembroke Foundation is seeking to create a corpus of at least \$10 million which could provide up to \$1 million a year for starting new churches.

Florida Baptist Convention Executive Director-Treasurer John Sullivan called the new foundation "an answer to prayer."

"If we started 800 churches tomorrow, that would only bring us to the 1970 church-population ratio," said

Sullivan, who serves as a trustee of the foundation. "And the fact that J.C. Mitchell, the past president of our state convention, is to head this church-planting ministry can help bring a new day to Florida."

Noting that Florida is one of the fastest-growing states in the nation with a net population gain of 830 persons each day, Mitchell said: "We are falling farther and farther behind in church planting and winning people to Christ."

The Florida Baptist State Convention voted last November to establish a fraternal relationship with the foundation. The foundation already has provided \$100,000 to the state convention to help offset a shortfall in funds which threatened to slash mission pastor salaries by 40%.

The Pembroke Foundation is headquartered at 445 North Wymore Road, Winter Park, FL 32789.

Brymer is editor of Florida BAPTIST WITNESS.

## Broadman releases two new "counselor" modules

NASHVILLE — The success of an audio cassette witnessing tool for teenagers has prompted the development of two similar products for college students and adults.

"Gospel Tract: College Edition" and "Gospel Tract: Adult Edition" are two new modules in the 24-Hour Counselor audio cassette series produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press.

The original "Gospel Tract" — an audio-drama presentation of the plan of salvation — was designed for teenagers. The tape featured contemporary music and characters ranging from a "surfer dude" to an "urban youth" in explaining how fulfillment and eternal security can only be found through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

All three "Gospel Tract" editions

were written by Robert Don Hughes, associate professor of communications and mass media at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

The college edition is built around a "spring break" theme with six teenagers headed to the beach for a week's vacation from school. Using the interaction of the characters, the audio-drama hits many themes relevant to college students, including: the fear of failure, loneliness, acceptance, drinking, success, and sexuality. In the end, two of the students explain the only real answers to life's questions, the only way to find purpose or meaning in life, is through a personal faith in Christ.

Both modules will be available through Baptist Book Stores or by calling the Sunday School Board's Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-2772.



Annie Armstrong at work in the Delta

Home missionary Eddie Jones, standing, traveled the back roads of the Mississippi Delta to discover church prospects. Jones, who has been in Mississippi since 1987, asks Southern Baptists to pray that Victory Temple Baptist Church where he is pastor will continue to grow rapidly in leadership. Jones is one of 4,573 home missionaries serving across the nation. He is supported cooperatively by First Baptist Church of Greenville, Miss., the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the Home Mission Board. He works as a church planter in Greenville, where he started Victory Temple, and led that church to begin a mission. (HMB photo by Mark Sandlin)

## Great Commission pilot project ups growth average two percent

By Frank Wm. White

NASHVILLE (BP) — While churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention averaged 2.2% growth in Sunday School enrollment, 302 churches that participated in the Great Commission Breakthrough pilot project showed significant gains with an average 6.6% growth in Sunday School enrollment.

Based on the statistics from the recently reported 1991 Uniform Church Letter, the average increase for Southern Baptist churches was 4.5 members in Sunday School. The 302 Great Commission churches reported increases averaging 27 new members.

Earl Waldrup, a contract consultant with the Sunday School division, has led 11 churches through the Great Commission Breakthrough process during the pilot project.

The process is different for each church, Waldrup said.

"A church may experience breakthrough during the project or they may start down the road toward breakthrough. Some may complete the process and be right where they were."

"When a church has a renewed commitment to Christ... changes from a maintenance mindset to an attitude to reach people... then they

will be interested and open to program changes," he explained.

Waldrup, who wrote the consultant's manual and pastor's guide for the Great Commission Breakthrough project, said churches must have a sense of mission and agree they are under the mandate of Christ's Great Commission. "Otherwise there is not going to be much readiness to do the practical program changes," he said.

Waldrup said he has been impressed with the spiritual change that precedes breakthrough as he has worked with churches.

White writes for BSSB.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## The grief task force

The harried pastor sighed deeply as he replaced the phone. "Another death, another funeral; that will make five this week."

A lady speaking to an insurance agent said, "If he dies . . . It's not 'if,' but 'when.'"

Death can come with abruptness, and the event is non-negotiable. No amount of knowledge, finances, or smooth rhetoric can get you out of reach of the final enemy. "For as in Adam all die," thankfully, that's only the beginning of the verse. " . . . Even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Cor. 15:22).

Blessed is the congregation that has a plan to minister to the grief-stricken families. Each of these congregations needs a task force to take care of all the details plus ministering to the survivors. Neither the pastor nor his wife can do all that must be done. The church family needs to be involved and really wants to be involved. Someone in your church has the gift to lead this task force in making calls, preparing food, taking care of small children, and ministering to the griev-

ing family.

"I fear going. I won't know what to say!" "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13). A child is not looking for conversation, but presence. A mother gives love, tenderness, touching, and the greatest comfort, presence. This is worth more than a set of encyclopedias on comfort.

"Let me know if I can help," though sincere, will seldom bring forth a request for your help.

"I know how you feel," is hardly the best thing to say. Each relationship is different. Recounting the most recent death in your family may not be a comforting word. "It could have been worse," "It happens to all of us," "Be glad your children are grown," will hardly meet mourners' needs at this time.

Sooner or later, you will lose someone very precious to you. At that time you may wonder if anybody is really out there. Does anyone really care? Grief is not a bath you take and it's over. It's a journey. Grief is a process of rehabilitation. "Out of the depths I

cry unto thee O Lord! Lord hear my voice" (Psalm 130:1). There are some deep wells of support out there. Draw often, drink deeply.

The church's ministry is to seek to smooth out the pathway rather than add another pitfall. The church must be the channel through which God's redemptive work continues. It's the arena where burdens are shared and fear is defeated. It is also the temple for teaching and healing that stretches into the future after the funeral. Loneliness is to be anticipated. There is a hunger and desire to be with someone, to talk with an understanding person. Emotional support is needed on birthday, holidays, and anniversaries.

This task force cannot be elected, but can be selected. Usually the right people will surface because of their desire to minister to hurting people. Is it a meaningful ministry when the church helps the divorced, the parents of a drug addict, the family of a man in prison, the unemployed, and the list could go on? This "cup of water" in Jesus' name does not go unnoticed.

## Mormon video: lesson in cult evangelism

By Bob Rogers

A free video being offered in TV commercials by the Mormon Church is a lesson to Christians in evangelism.

"Our Heavenly Father's Plan" is a professionally produced 28 1/2 minute videotape currently being offered in Mormon television commercials by calling a toll-free number.

The tape is filled with soft, uplifting music, and beautiful outdoor scenery. A young man talks about the search for purpose in life as the viewer watches all kinds of people in a wide variety of settings, especially families and young adults. Few senior adults appear on the tape.

There is almost nothing in the first two-thirds of the tape to alert a Christian that he will hear anti-Christian doctrines. There is no mention of Joseph Smith or Brigham Young. After talking about his discovery that God is our father and that Jesus Christ is our Savior, the young man on the tape says that he prayed and found assurance that this was true. This section ends with music and a view of a mountain peak.

## Introduces Mormon ideas

The last section quickly introduces Mormon ideas, but this is done carefully, without fully explaining how radically different the concepts are from Christianity. The young speaker says that the Bible was given by God in the Middle East, and God "also loved his children who lived on the other side of the world on the American continent, and spoke to them as well through prophets in the Book of Mormon."

The tape goes on to say that our Father in heaven "sent us to earth to gain physical bodies," and Jesus makes it possible to return to heaven

and "continue our growth and development with him forever." This plants the seed for the Mormon doctrine that there are many gods, and humans existed before birth as spirits, and that after death humans can become perfect, like a god.

The role of the cross of Christ in all of this is ambiguous. The speaker says "if we repent" we can have "the pain and sorrow of sin washed away." By "repent," the tape means "we have to change and overcome our sin." There is no mention of salvation by grace through faith. Christ is said to be a "light" to our consciences to help us know how to change.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is mentioned only once, at the end of the tape, when the viewer is told that representatives of the church can come and tell "how families can be together forever," which they believe can be made possible by baptism for dead ancestors and marriage in the Mormon temple. How should Christians respond?

Christian leaders should be aware of the subtle ways this video undermines the gospel, and be ready to explain clearly the authority of the Bible as the only Scripture, the nature of God and mankind, and salvation by grace. We should make clear to people that when we use the word "repent," we mean a change of mind which results in a change of behavior because of faith in Jesus. We should never imply that there is anything we can do to merit our salvation.

Christians can learn some lessons about evangelism from this Mormon video. One lesson is that the video is highly professional. If we believe evangelism is vital, then we should en-

sure that our materials and presentations are as professional and attractive as possible.

A second lesson is that the video gently eases the viewer into the subject. The tape starts with the need of the viewer for purpose in life. There is no mention of the church or specific Mormon doctrines until near the end. Near the beginning the young speaker says, "I'm not trying so much to convince you of my beliefs as to share with you what I've found," and he encourages the viewer to make up his or her own mind. Christians would do well to take a gentle approach to our evangelism, working the conversation naturally around to the subject of Christ. We often make the mistake of talking about salvation before we have prepared the individual to hear what we have to say, or of talking about our church when we should be talking about our Christ.

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.

1907 — Mississippi Baptists entered into an agreement for the establishment of the Tri-State Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

## Oops

In the editor's article published Feb. 20 "A warm Meeting on a cold evening," the missionaries attending the Evangelism Lectures at Mississippi College should have read, in part: the Raymond Kolbs and Byron Harbins of Brazil. We regret the oversight.

## SONG IN THE NIGHT

"NOT ONE OF THEM FALLS TO THE GROUND UNRELATED TO YOUR FATHER... HAVE NO FEAR THEN; YOU ARE OF MORE CONSEQUENCE THAN MANY SPARROWS" — MATT. 10:29,31



## A Baptist pilgrimage

John Paul Jones, director of missions for Mississippi Association, sent me a copy of the program for the Mississippi Baptist Centennial Convention's meeting in Natchez in 1936. It billed the convention as a historic Baptist Pilgrimage to Natchez, and carried pictures of the burial sites of Richard Curtis and Ashley Vaughn. Curtis was instrumental in beginning the first Baptist church in Mississippi in 1791.

A map was included, inviting the convention participants to come via Vicksburg or Hazlehurst. Frank M. Purser of Oxford was convention president, R. B. Gunter as corresponding secretary (executive director), and Bryan Simmons of Ellisville was the preacher.

Natchez and First Church (W. A. Sullivan, pastor) rolled out the red carpet for the visitors. The Presbyterian, Catholic, Episcopal, and Methodist churches welcomed the Baptists. The churches paid for their "advertisements" in the booklet, along with Crow's Service Station — "washing, greasing, flats." Excelsior Laundry advertised as "cleaners-dryers-hatters" while 171 Cabs Service proclaimed, "We never sleep." Marsh's Store offered "cold drinks, good eats, gas and oils," and you could stay at the Concord Hotel for \$1 without bath and \$1.50 with bath. Moreover, you were invited to stay at the Lincoln's delux tourist court en route at Vicksburg.

Churches also helped to get the centennial booklet printed. First Church, Jackson, W. A. Hewitt, pastor, carried a picture of the church's 1927 building. Its cost was \$514,000; it contained 102 rooms, 34 closets, 14 laboratories, 536 electric lamps, three drinking fountains, 11 pianos (eat your heart out, Larry), 120 steam radiators,

and had a modern kitchen equipped to serve 250 persons.

P. I. Lipsey, editor of the Baptist Record, was there along with J. E. Byrd, Sunday School secretary, and Auber J. Wilds, BTU secretary. Sunday School Board work began in 1871 and was headquartered in West Point. BYPU began in 1899 with W. E. Holcomb as its leader.

The Woman's Missionary Union, Miss Fannie Traylor, corresponding secretary, boasted of 811 missionary societies, 265 YWAs, 473 GAS, 287 RA chapters, and 464 Sunbeam bands. Total offerings for all outside causes amounted to \$60,196 in 1935.

Tri-State Bus Company had the "convenient schedule and lowest fares." Jefferson Military Academy and Elizabeth Female Institute would welcome you. You could read Jesse L. Boyd's Baptist History en route for \$1.60. Mrs. O. M. Jones was Baptist Bookstore manager; Karenza Gilfoy was superintendent at Baptist Hospital, and reported \$39,105 of charity work. W. G. Mize was at the Baptist orphanage and M. P. L. Berry was president of Hillman College. They offered "unusual advantages in piano, voice, expression, business, and history courses."

The CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp) and the WPA (Work Project Administration) were in full swing in 1936 as we dug ourselves out of the Great Depression. The Summer Olympics met in Berlin and Adolph Hitler watched Jesse Owens win his trophy. Guns of World War II were sounding in Ethiopia and Spain as the world calibrates itself for conflict.

The convention met in Philadelphia in 1937 and in Meridian in 1941. Since then it has always met in Jackson.

— GH

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 116

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 4

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Associate Editor . . . . . Anne McWilliams  
Advertising Manager . . . . . Evelyn Keyes  
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Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to The Editor, Baptist Record P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Exec Committee recommends reallocation, disputed funds

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — A reallocation of \$300,000 in disputed funds, held by the Southern Baptist Foundation, to "convention causes as the Executive Committee deems appropriate," will be recommended to the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis in June.

The Executive Committee, meeting Feb. 17-18, voted overwhelmingly to approve a recommendation that the controversial account, claimed by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and sought by the SBC Christian Life Commission, be reallocated. The decision, a voice vote without audible dissent, was the climax of months of study by the Executive Committee but may be fought by the BJCPA, a Washington-based religious liberty agency.

"I don't believe the Lord leads people to take money that is not theirs," Oliver S. Thomas, BJCPA legal counsel told Baptist Press after the vote. Thomas said he felt the decision by the Executive Committee was inconsistent with the SBC action in 1964 setting up the fund.

However, the Executive Committee also will ask the SBC annual meeting to "disclaim any right to the interest accumulated on these funds on deposit and request that the Foundation remit all accumulated interest to the BJCPA as soon as practicable." As of Jan. 27, 1992, the accumulated interest was \$83,954.45. The BJCPA had been granted the interest earned on

the funds over the years and has drawn \$568,384 since 1968.

Thomas rejected the decision as a possible compromise with the BJCPA getting the interest but not the original funds. Asked if the BJCPA would pursue legal action if the SBC approves the recommendation in June, Thomas would say only that he planned to report to the BJCPA board of directors who ultimately would make any decision to respond.

The funds have been held for nearly four decades by the Southern Baptist Foundation — which sees itself as an agent in the matter instead of a trustee — but last year a dispute erupted between the CLC and the BJCPA over ownership of the funds. The BJCPA requested the funds last fall with the intent to purchase a building in Washington; however, the matter had by then been referred to the Executive Committee by the foundation.

A special committee appointed to research the matter spent hours in closed sessions before making the recommendation.

In a two-page background statement, the committee cited a number of reasons for their decision: critical differences between BJCPA and the SBC, a religious liberty assignment now with the SBC Christian Life Commission, the cessation of funding for the BJCPA from the SBC, the desire of the SBC to disassociate itself from the BJCPA, lack of a valid request

from the BJCPA fulfilling the original requirements to get the funds, the money was neither a gift, nor contract to the BJCPA, and the funds have been the property of the SBC from the original deposit at the foundation in 1966.

In addition, the present theological differences between the SBC and the BJCPA were cited which would make it a "breach of trust" for the SBC to give the funds to the BJCPA, "thereby assisting the BJCPA in promoting religious views that are not shared by the SBC."

The committee's statement also said giving the \$300,000 capital needs allocation to the BJCPA would "dilute the voice of the SBC on matters of religious liberty. Reallocating the money to other organizations which share the SBC's theological ideologies would strengthen the SBC's voice on religious liberty issues." The other organizations were not spelled out but there has been speculation they would include the Christian Life Commission.

The CLC has argued the funds were originally meant for the SBC Public Affairs Committee which has since merged with the CLC. Part of the documentation during the history of the funds includes references to "public affairs committee" and "joint committee on public affairs." Hollinger is director of BP.

## First, Clinton, will host WMU annual meeting

The 1992 annual meeting of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union is to be held on Monday and



Miller

Tuesday, March 16-17, at First Church, Clinton. The first session will begin at 2 p.m. on Monday and the evening session at 7. Tuesday sessions will start at 9:30 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. Two meals have been planned for the event. Monday supper will be served by the Mississippi Disaster Relief feeding unit at First Church, Clinton. Tuesday's lunch will be served in the Mississippi College Coliseum. Reservations for both meals must be made through the WMU office at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The cost of each meal is

\$5.00. There will be no refunds for meal reservations after March 11.

The Bible study sessions for the Annual Meeting will be led by Mrs. Carolyn Miller, president of WMU for the Southern Baptist Convention. Featured musicians will be Russell and Melinda Kyzar, missionaries to Costa Rica, and Mary Simmons from New Orleans.



Melinda and Russell Kyzar

## Bible reading will occur on steps of State Capitol

A Bible reading will take place Sunday afternoon, March 1, on the steps of the Mississippi Capitol in Jackson.

The Scripture will be read from a tour Bible which is making stops all over the country in advance of a National Convocation on the Bible, April 21-23, in Nashville.

Opening remarks and prayer will be led at 12:15 p.m. by Keith Wilkinson, director of the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Readers of the Bible will include Lee Bacon, director of missions for New Choctaw Association; Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson; and Alvin Hall, pastor of Ebenezer Church.

A group of children from First Church, Jackson, will recite from memory their favorite Bible verses. They are Cherish Sansing, Jonathan Lee, Mary Brook Allen, Deborah Thomas, Davis Jones, and Ben Boteler.

A Bible will be presented to Governor Kirk Fordice and then area churches will do Bible readings. These churches include First, Terry; Paul Truitt Memorial, Pearl; Midway, Jackson; Morrison Heights, Clinton; Pinelake, Brandon; Liberty, Flowood; Broadmoor, Jackson; Briarwood Drive, Jackson; Alta Woods, Jackson; First, Madison; First, Brandon; and First, Pearl.

The program will close at 3 p.m. with Bible reading and remarks by Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the MBCB.

## Transition period set up for Chapman-Bennett

(BP) — A six-month transition period for the incoming and retiring executive officers was approved by the Executive Committee. Bennett, 67, will be feted at a number of receptions beginning with the annual meeting in Indianapolis in June.

Harold and Phyllis Bennett will receive all expenses paid through 1995 for commitments he has as vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, expenses for the couple to attend SBC annual meetings throughout their lives, a 1993 Lincoln Town Car automobile, and the title of "President Emeritus" of the Executive Committee.

In addition, the auditorium in the SBC building in Nashville will be named the Harold C. Bennett Auditorium with appropriate bronze plaque. Bennett will receive a \$22,000 retainer for three months following his retirement, through Dec. 31, 1992, as "the need is determined by (Morris) Chapman." He also will receive additional retirement benefits allotted in the personnel manual of the Executive Committee.

A convention operating budget of \$4,211,070 for 1992-93 was approved to be recommended to the SBC in Indianapolis. The figure is a 4.67% increase over the current year's budget.

Concerns regarding the CLC's religious liberty assignment were aired by the Foreign Mission Board

during an Executive Committee workgroup session Feb. 17. The FMB took issue with new CLC responsibility for communicating "with representatives of governments the concerns of the Southern Baptist Convention for... religious liberty throughout the world."

According to the FMB, it traditionally has represented Southern Baptist concerns overseas. But, the CLC responded, many religious liberty concerns extend beyond U.S. borders. The trustee workgroup amended the document to state that the CLC should work "in consultation" with the FMB on overseas concerns.

Program statement revisions also were approved for the Executive Committee and the Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary. The WMU had requested approval of the revision, although as an auxiliary, was not required to do so. Both program statement revisions were approved for recommendation to the Indianapolis annual meeting.

However, the WMU revision did bring a unique request from Executive Committee member E. Gibbie McMillan of Louisiana. He moved that the WMU be invited to initiate legal steps to become an agency of the SBC instead of an auxiliary. Following some discussion, his motion was

(See BENNETT on page 10)

## Resolution positions committee squarely against homosexuality

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee squarely positioned itself against homosexuality Feb. 18 and against two North Carolina churches weighing measures sympathetic to homosexuality.

The Executive Committee adopted a resolution singling out Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh and Olin T. Binkley Memorial Church in Chapel Hill, reminding them "God regards homosexuality as a gross perversion and unquestioned sin."

The 77-member committee also initiated efforts to recommend to the Southern Baptist Convention that it amend its constitution and/or bylaws to include measures against any church "affirming, approving, or endorsing in any way the active practice of homosexuality," according to one proposal. Such acts would include ordaining or licensing homosexuals into the ministry, performing marriage-like ceremonies, or otherwise affirm-

ing homosexual practices as an "alternate lifestyle."

Members of Pullen Memorial voted Feb. 9 to use a secret mail ballot to decide whether to sanction a "same-gender union," or marriage-like ceremony, requested by one of the church's members and his homosexual partner. The ballot will be mailed to nearly 800 church members and the vote will be announced by the end of February, according to church pastor Mahan Siler.

The ballot also will ask Pullen members whether church membership should be open without regard to sexual orientation.

Olin T. Binkley Memorial Church, meanwhile, is in the process of deciding whether to license a homosexual member of the church to the gospel ministry. A series of small group discussions is planned prior to an April 5 meeting to decide the matter, said church pastor Linda Jordan.

The resolution adopted by the Ex-

ecutive Committee expresses "deep and compassionate concern for these churches (and their) departure from doctrine and theology generally held by Southern Baptists..."

Committee members resolved "to pray fervently that the Holy Spirit will admonish and enlighten these churches in their deliberations... that their members will have sufficient grace to know and do that which is right in the eyes of Almighty God..."

But Executive Committee members also wanted something more substantive than a resolution against homosexuality.

They approved a motion by T.C. Pinckney of Virginia instructing their administrative subcommittee to develop a proposed change to the SBC constitution and/or bylaws to address "the possibility of some churches endorsing homosexuality."

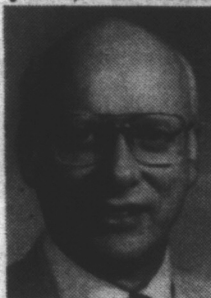
And Executive Committee

(See HOMOSEXUALITY on page 10)



# FMB elects director for Spanish South America

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Bill Goff, a missionary to Venezuela for 20 years, was elected area director for mission work in Spanish South America Feb. 12 by trustees of the Foreign Mission Board.



Goff

Venezuela.

Until recently he also was executive secretary of Venezuelan Baptists' board of missions and evangelism, the missionary-sending arm of the National Baptist Convention of Venezuela.

In his new role, Goff will direct the

work of about 600 missionaries in Spanish-speaking South America, an area including Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Beginning March 1, he will work in the board's home office in Richmond for a year before moving to an overseas base in his region.

Goff, from Wichita Falls, Texas, succeeds Bryan (Breezy) Brasington, who retired Dec. 31.

Goff and his wife, the former Emilee Griffith of Abilene, Texas, were appointed Southern Baptist missionaries to Venezuela in 1971. In addition to teaching, he directed Venezuelan Baptists' seminary extension program and remained active in church planting and evangelism.

He has been director of Venezuelan Baptists' student work program and president of the convention's strategy planning committee.

## Mississippi natives appointed by Home Mission Board



Mr. and Mrs. Omarkhail

ATLANTA — Mississippi natives Beth Allen, Pat Cummings, and Daud Omarkhail were appointed to mission service by the Home Mission Board in January.

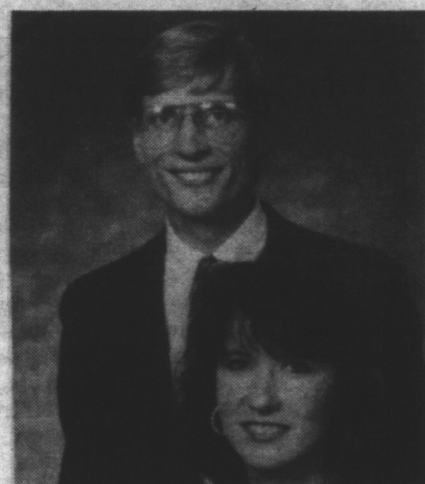
A native of Ethel, Allen is a graduate of Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. She will serve as director of church and community ministries for Gulf Stream Association in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



Cummings

Allen has been a summer missionary in Ohio and a US-2 missionary in South Carolina. Her husband, Todd, is a mission pastor at Coastal Community Church in Oakland Park, Fla.

Cummings, a native of Maben, is a graduate of Blue Mountain College



Mr. and Mrs. Allen

and New Orleans Seminary. She will serve as a church and community ministries apprentice in Philadelphia.

A former teacher, Cummings was a summer missionary and a US-2 missionary in Illinois. Her volunteer service includes counseling at women's crisis pregnancy centers and working as a youth minister.

Omarkhail will serve in Falmouth where he will be a church planter apprentice and his wife, Jeanette, will work in family and church service.

Omarkhail is a graduate of Mississippi College and Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

A former youth pastor, Omarkhail served as a summer missionary in Bangladesh.

## Michael Clingenpeel elected editor of Religious Herald

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Virginia Baptist pastor Michael Clingenpeel has been elected editor of the Religious Herald, newsjournal of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Trustees of the Herald unanimously elected Clingenpeel Feb. 10 at a called meeting of the board in Richmond. He is expected to assume the position around May 1.

Clingenpeel, 41, succeeds Julian Pentecost, who will retire at the end of April after 22 years as editor of the 164-year-old Virginia Baptist newsjournal.

Since 1983, Clingenpeel has been pastor of Franklin Church in

southeastern Virginia.

Clingenpeel is currently first vice chairman of the Religious Herald board of trustees and has served as a trustee since 1986.

Clingenpeel holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond and master's and doctor's degrees from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Although born in Ocala, Fla., he has lived in Virginia most of his life. His wife, the former Vivian Stephenson, is a lawyer and the daughter of former Virginia Baptist executive director Richard Stephenson of Falls Church, Va.



## North Delta receives house for missionaries

Mrs. Billie H. Sartin of Clarksdale has donated to North Delta Association a large house in the town of Lyon to be used for furloughing missionaries or ministers "in transition."

Operation of this house, and the renovations which need to be done, will be under direction of the Mid-Delta Ministerial Housing, comprised of the directors of missions and two other elected committee members from North Delta, Bolivar, Panola, and Tallahatchie Associations.

Work on the house will be done by volunteers from the associations who plan work days. The first work day was on

Feb. 1, by the Baptist Young Men of Oakhurst Church, pictured, who replaced flooring, installed some insulation, and began various other jobs. Further work days will be scheduled by the various churches in all four of the associations involved.

"Also, the churches will be asked to contribute furniture and other household items to furnish the house, and we anticipate having it completely ready for operation by the end of the summer," said M. C. Johnson, director of missions.

## Basic virtues necessary in '90s, conference participants told

By Mark Wingfield and Greg Warner

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) — Any emphasis on Christian ethics in the 1990s must begin with reclaiming "salt-of-the-earth" virtues, participants in the first conference of the Baptist Center for Ethics were told.

"Could it be that in the social turmoil of the '60s, the narcissism of the '70s, and the upwardly mobile sophistication of the '80s, many of us have lost touch with salt-of-the-earth virtues like honesty, fidelity, and integrity?" asked David Hughes, pastor of First Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.

"Saying what you mean, meaning what you say, and keeping your promises have almost become extinct species in the ethical kingdom," Hughes said.

"Sadly, Southern Baptist denominational life is no exception to this rule."

Hughes was among 20 speakers and

panelists participating in the conference at Immanuel Church, Nashville, Tenn. This was the first national conference sponsored by the Baptist Center for Ethics since its formation last year by Robert Parham, who left the staff of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

About 300 people from 17 states registered at the conference, with the largest numbers coming from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama.

Conference topics included genetic engineering, the health-care crisis, hunger, the education crisis, teenage sex, racism, civil religion, and a reading by author Will Campbell.

Parham said the smorgasbord approach was intended to attract more participants and "to deal with a variety of issues that haven't been dealt with recently" in Baptist circles.

Sound ethics for the '90s also must include sound theology, said Emmanuel McCall in one of two theme interpretations. McCall, former long-time director of black church relations for the SBC Home Mission Board, is pastor of Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in Atlanta.

McCall called for a clear presentation of the gospel that avoids "syrupy sentimentalism" and the preaching of a "gimme God" as presented by television evangelists.

Further, McCall said, Christians must learn that ethics means "we cannot really love God and hate people." The church is not immune to "displays of unlovable ugliness that pervade our nation," he said.

Legendary college football coach Bobby Bowden said every coach faces a decision whether or not to cheat to win. Bowden's football program at Florida State University is one of the most successful in the country but also has avoided the scandals that have hit other successful schools.

Bowden said colleges don't have to cheat to win but acknowledged "it's easier." While some college recruits

and coaches fall victim to the temptation to trade performance for cash, Bowden said, "We will not bid at Florida State University."

Despite well-publicized scandals, Bowden estimated only 10-12% of colleges break NCAA rules that govern college athletics. Like other coaches, Bowden said he is frustrated by the number and complexity of NCAA rules. "If everybody would obey the rules, we would only need 10 of them," he said. "The Ten Commandments would do."

"Football is a microcosm of society," he said. "If they've got crooks, we've got crooks." He stressed the importance of family and ethical teaching for keeping sports clean.

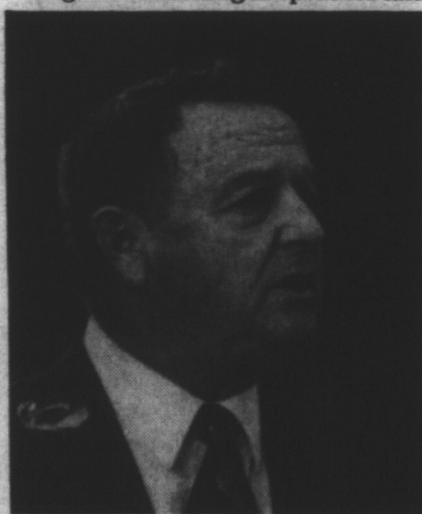
Thomas Corts, president of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., said giving government funds to private and church schools is not the answer to America's education problem.

In a speech on the state of American education, Corts outlined a list of challenges facing schools. Even public schools are strangling under regulations that come with government funding, he said.

"Money alone is not the answer," Corts said. Public schools need more funds "but also need a new conviction about teachers, hiring gifted persons and giving them tools and power to do their jobs, and bold new avenues of parental involvement," he said.

The demise of strong families is a major contributor to the demise of America's schools, Corts said. "Even objective secular researchers are acknowledging the role of parental encouragement in student learning. Low levels of parent involvement have been cited among the four or five major causes of poor achievement by U.S. school children."

Wingfield is news director of WESTERN RECORDER, Kentucky, and Warner is editor of Associated Baptist Press.



ETHICS CONFERENCE — Speaking at the first national conference of the Baptist Center for Ethics, in Nashville, Tenn., Bobby Bowden, head football coach at Florida State University, warns that selfishness and pressure from alumni on weak administrators are the two primary factors for cheating in college athletics. (Photo by Judd Wood)



# Sunday Care reaches out to inner city children

By Anne W. McWilliams

On a freezing Sunday morning in Jackson, 50 children showed up for Sunday Care on Hinds-Madison's Crestwood Center property. Somebody had cut the gas off the week before, to work on the building. Leaders, worried about the kids being cold, prepared to send them home. Instead, they crowded into a small clinic where dentists and doctors sometimes do volunteer work. And at the end of the worship service, 15 children stood when the invitation was given for them to take Christ as their Savior.

On Wednesday night, Feb. 5, Frank Pollard, pastor, baptized at First Church, Jackson, five of these black children of Jackson's inner city, three from one family. They were Jarred Clayton, Monike Clayton, Temica Clayton, Jermaine Johnson, and Detrick Boyd.

Sunday Care, ministry of the Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was begun Oct. 26, 1991, under direction of Carlie Hill, who had for 17 years directed the bus ministry at Parkway Church, Jackson, and who has had 10 years of experience in ministry to the deaf.

This ministry with inner city children has been a long-time dream of Bill Causey, Hill said. The two of them worked together while Causey (now executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board), was pastor at Parkway.

Purpose of Sunday Care, Hill said, "is to teach, witness to, and instruct children about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Though he began with urban Jackson, he said he wants to start similar ministries across the state, wherever there is a concentration of children who don't go to church. This might be at a housing project, trailer court, or in other particular areas of towns and/or cities.

For the Jackson meeting place, Hinds-Madison Association (J. W. Brister, director of missions) is providing a small two-bedroom house which is behind its Crestwood Center.



Frank Pollard, after baptizing Jermaine Johnson, assists him out of the pool.

When Carlie Hill was pastor of Crestwood Church on this same site in 1971-74, the house where he's holding Sunday Care was then the home of the assistant pastor.

Last summer, teams from First Church, Jackson, and First Church, Haleyville, Ala. renovated the house. Before October, Luther Tucker, director of Crestwood Center, and Shari Barnes, assistant director, had already begun a week-day activity for the children, showing films on Wednesdays, with average attendance of 25.

Hours for Sunday Care are from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The key to the success of this outreach, Hill said, is a visitation program that he and his wife, Oleta, and others do on Saturdays.

"Every week we have some kind of promotion," he said, "like cookies and chocolate milk. Children nowadays are interested in material things, so we offer something like this to make them want to come. Then

when they are here, we can teach them about Jesus."

Each Sunday's activities include Sunday School, a break for recreation and refreshment, worship and singing, lunch with perhaps pizza or hot dogs, play time, and missionary activities. Then when the children leave, they are given a take-home treat. In summer, this might be popsicles, ice cream, snow cones, or cold drinks.

On the beginning day in October, 80 children came; since then the attendance has averaged 65 a week. Since more room is now needed for the worship services, Hill said a chapel is to be created from a garage on the property. Though Sunday Care is planned for first through sixth graders, some teens have begun to come, and also some adults have come with their children. One family with seven children has been coming, including the parents.

"We would like to have mission activities for the children during the week, and maybe a prayer meeting

and Bible study for adults," Hill said. "We also plan to have Vacation Bible School this summer."

Follow-up includes a visit in the home of each child who makes a profession of faith. If the Jackson children do not have a church of their own, Pollard baptizes them at First Church. Then continued training and instruction is given to each of the children to help them grow in the Lord.

Volunteers have been manning this program, which of course Hill could not do all on his own. Rich Malone, youth minister at Parkway Church, Jackson, and Brian Lowe, assistant youth minister, and a group of young people from Parkway and Mississippi College helped for two months. Volunteers also included Joe and Charlotte Matthews and Melvin York.

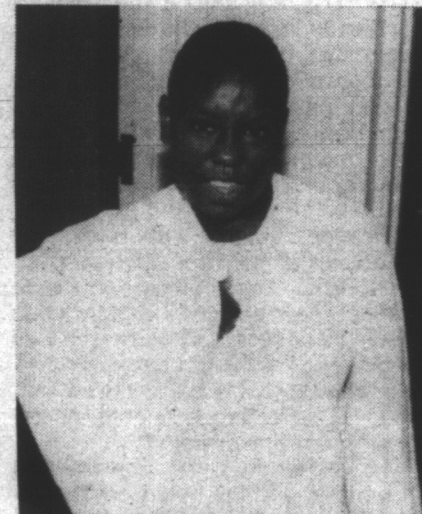
Then a group of 25 young people under direction of Cindy Townsend from First Church, Jackson, helped through February.

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, will help during the first half of March and First, Haleyville, Ala. has promised to give some time this summer.

Now more volunteers are much needed. Anyone who wants to help may contact Hill at the Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (phone 968-3800).

Also Hill said, "We are available to help, and would like to go anywhere in the state to show other groups how

to begin such a ministry to children. You can come to visit Sunday Care in Jackson and use our pattern here, or we will come to you and teach you how to begin. The only thing the sponsoring church must do is promise to keep it going after we leave, and they must provide a person to preach at worship services and the personnel to keep Sunday Care going." He suggested that Sunday Care would be a good place for seminary and/or college student preachers to practice. Other helpers could be college students, high school seniors, mission volunteers — or anyone who loves children.



Detrick Boyd, just baptized, takes a towel.



Jarred Clayton, Temica Clayton, and Monike Clayton, brother and sisters, were among five children recently baptized at First Church, Jackson.



## First Church, Brookhaven, sets record for Lottie Moon offering

Robert Self, pastor of First Church, Brookhaven (center) presents a check for \$131,965.20 to Marjean Patterson, state WMU director, and William Maxwell, director of accounting and personnel services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This was the largest Lottie Moon Christmas Offering ever received for First Church.

## Price announces for presidency

By R. Albert Mohler Jr.

MARIETTA, Ga. (BP) — Citing "a broad base of encouragement from friends across the country," Marietta pastor Nelson L. Price, a Mississippian, announced Feb. 21 he would allow himself to be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the 1992 session in Indianapolis.

Price, pastor of Marietta's 8,000-member Roswell Street Church for 26 years, currently is the convention's first vice president. He also served terms as president of the Georgia Baptist Convention from 1982-1983 and was president of the SBC Pastor's Conference in 1987.

In a prepared statement, Price said, "Since June of last year, persons have encouraged this announcement." He said his decision to allow his nomination "is a consequence of grass roots requests and comes after much prayer."

Price said his leadership style, experience, and theological commitments could allow him to "congeal the body, heal wounds, and allow the convention to concentrate on carrying

out the commission of our Lord."

He stated his commitment to continuing the "conservative resurgence" within the SBC and to a process of enlarging convention involvement among those "with whom we share doctrinal kinship but who have not been a part of the conservative movement."

"I am unequivocally an inerrantist," he said, "who believes the doctrines of biblical inerrancy and Christology are inter-related. If you deny one, you debate the other. Inerrancy is foundational, but the ultimate issue is the person of Christ."

California pastor Jess Moody, running on a "centrist" platform, has said he will be nominated for the office. From 1979 to 1990, the presidency was fiercely contested by SBC moderates and conservatives.

Moderate leaders have said they do not intend to nominate a candidate in Indianapolis.

Price is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University and New Orleans Seminary. He is the author of 13 books.

Mohler is editor, CHRISTIAN INDEX, Georgia.

**HOME MISSIONS VOLUNTEERS UP IN 1991, BUT SHORTAGE PREDICTED: ATLANTA (BP)** — The number of volunteers for home mission projects increased in 1991, but coordinators say a bad economy may keep many volunteers at home this year. "We've got missionaries who are about at the point of panic," said Valerie Hardy, a Home Mission Board volunteer coordinator. Fewer youth groups are volunteering for Home Mission Board projects this year, meaning more missionaries will not get enough staff for such summer projects as Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs, she said. The Home Mission Board counted more than 69,600 volunteers in 1991, up 9.4% from the 63,600 in 1990, according to a report from the board's volunteer division. Youth groups showed the largest increase in 1991, jumping from 22,000 in 1990 to 30,500 in 1991, the report states.



# Foreign Board adopts 4-point agreement

By Robert O'Brien & Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees did not discuss the tenure of board president R. Keith Parks Feb. 10 — either in a closed two-hour meeting of the chairman's council with Parks or in an open one-hour session of the full trustee board.

The board did, however, adopt a four-point agreement drafted in the chairman's council, made up of trustee officers and committee chairmen.

## The agreement:

1) affirmed the mission agency's seven-point statement of basic principles authored by Parks, which has been a basis for FMB work in recent years. Trustees denied they have a worldwide "fundamentalist agenda" for foreign missions, as charged by the board's two senior executives overseeing mission work in Europe, Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker. The two announced early retirement in January because of disagreements with trustee actions and philosophy.

2) condemned the wide release by the press and others of a personal letter trustee Ron Wilson wrote to trustee chairman Bill Hancock, on which Ballenger and Parker based their view of a "fundamentalist agenda." Trustees also emphasized that Hancock never implemented the letter's recommendations.

3) noted a committee appointed in December will pursue efforts to heal relationships with European Baptists.

4) affirmed willingness of trustees "to be led by our president" (Parks) in accomplishing the board's Bold Mission Thrust goals and strengthening support for FMB staff and missionaries.

Wide speculation before the meeting centered on fears trustees might take steps to hasten Parks' departure as president.

Many trustees had expressed anger that Parks allowed Ballenger and Parker to hold a press conference at the board Jan. 7 to announce their early retirement and that he appeared at the conference.

Parks and Hancock said no discussion of Parks' tenure or role as president came up in the closed chairman's council session and no mention was made of it in the open session. Instead, Parks said, the closed session reflected the spirit of the open meeting, although the participants aired tensions and concerns about relationships that "we'll have to work on."

Other observers agreed tensions between FMB staff and trustees, which increased after trustees defunded the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, will not disappear quickly.

But trustee Paige Patterson of Texas said in an interview the chairman's council members got at "the beginning of an understanding" of working together under Parks' seven mission principles.

Parks' principles are "1) a biblical basis for all we do; 2) a primary purpose of evangelism that results in churches; 3) an incarnational approach to foreign missions, emphasizing the career missionary; 4) a conviction that every Southern Baptist is a witness and can be involved in foreign missions by giving, going, and praying; 5) a commitment to the indigenous principle, which calls for churches established to be 'natural' in their environment; 6) a comprehensive approach, not . . . focusing on a

single issue or method but . . . seeking to express the total scope of ministry; and 7) a responsibility for communicating foreign missions opportunities, challenges, and results to Southern Baptists regarding their efforts in foreign missions."

"I think it was one of the most wholesome meetings I've seen in a long time," Patterson said. "Everyone felt at perfect liberty to share what was on their heart . . . and vent their spleen." The council, he said, was "absolutely unanimous" on the four points Hancock stated.

Parks, who will turn 65 in October, would not speculate on the announcement of any retirement date.

Asked why Parks' tenure was not addressed in the meeting, Patterson said, "that should be an indication to people who listen to pre-meeting predictions of various trustees that they aren't always accurate."

Patterson said he couldn't predict if or when the tenure issue would arise again. Asked if he feels Parks is indispensable to Southern Baptist foreign missions, Patterson said that Parks "has many gifts and assets" but is not indispensable to carrying out mission work. Parks had asked to remain in his post until 1995 to lead the way in implementing his ambitious 10-point plan for global evangelization.

On the subject of the Ballenger-Parker news conference, Hancock said the two men's allegations about Wilson's letter had caused many to malign his reputation. Those who anonymously released the private letter and news reporters who distributed it, he added, "have been less than aboveboard in ethics and integrity." He strongly asserted he had not implemented even one of the letter's suggestions for changes in Southern Baptist foreign missions.

Wilson charged that only one reporter — from Kentucky — called him to verify his authorship of the letter. However, Baptist Press contacted Wilson about the letter after the press conference and obtained a detailed response from him to Parker's and Ballenger's charges. Wilson said later he had not meant to imply that Baptist Press and other news people had not contacted him. He said he meant only to point out that Ballenger and Parker did not verify his authorship and that the Kentucky reporter knew in advance what they would say at the press conference and what the letter said. He said he did write the letter.

Parks said he chose to convene a press conference because two senior staff members were taking the unprecedented action of retiring in protest. A press conference seemed to be the quickest and cleanest way to get out information to the many media that surely would report on the action, he stated.

The FMB president cited a policy memo he wrote in 1981 that outlines his "deep conviction that open, honest, credible reporting of news is essential for a healthy organization."

His strong view of news openness intensified during his years as a missionary in Indonesia under a communist-dominated press. The people did not believe the press "because of its agenda to put communism in (only) a good light," he said.

The FMB president said he appeared on the platform with Ballenger and Parker to affirm and praise the work they had done over the years, not to make anyone angry.



## Youth Week: March 8-15

BALTIMORE, Md. — Brian Sporer, a youth member and children's worker at Marris Hill Baptist Church in Baltimore, Md., explains facts about seashells to Kelly Alt. "Community — My Serving Family" is the theme for Youth Week, set to be observed March 8-15 on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar. The theme presents youth with the challenge of learning, loving and living as an active part of the church family. Youth Week is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

## Baptists in Seville, Spain send urgent plea for help

SEVILLE, SPAIN — Like Nehemiah and the Israelites, Spanish Baptist pastor Reuben Gomez and the members of the Seville Baptist Church are working against the clock. At stake: the property on which their new church building stands, and their reputation in the community.

When the city of Seville was chosen as the site for the international exposition EXPO '92, the city leaders offered the Seville Baptist Church a choice piece of land. The condition: that a church building be completed before the opening of the Fair in April.

Unfortunately, response to the project has not met with projections, and construction is behind schedule. The apartments rented to house volunteers are standing empty, costing the church funds that could have been directed to the building project. The church faces the possibility of having to hire professional workers to complete the building, an additional unanticipated expense.

Henry Langford, team leader of the first group of volunteer builders,

stated: "This church can be a tremendous witness to the community. It is ideally located and will be a beautiful building. But unless the urgent labour needs are met, they stand a chance of being fined to the extent of not having funds to complete the project." Langford and his wife, who own their own contracting business in Foley, worked with a team of seven volunteers for two weeks. They and another volunteer from the team, seeing the need, chose to stay for an additional week.

The building project requires experienced bricklayers, plumbers, electricians, tile layers, and stucco workers. Meals and housing are available at a per diem rate of \$23. Persons interested in going to Seville to work on the project can contact one of the following addresses:

In America:  
Volunteer Department  
Foreign Mission Board  
Box 6767  
Richmond, VA 23230  
Phone: (804) 353-0151

## Mission volunteer dies

By Donald D. Martin

CLEARWATER, Fla. (BP) — Jan Jendrynski-Rosser, a 22-year-old mission volunteer, died Feb. 12 in Clearwater, Fla., after battling malaria she contracted in Mali.



Jendrynski-Rosser contracted falciparum malaria while teaching English at the Baptist Community Center in Bamako, Mali. After returning in late December to her parents' home in Clearwater, she collapsed from the fatiguing effects of the sickness Jan. 30. She was unaware she had malaria when she completed her three-month volunteer assignment in the west African country.

Once she was hospitalized in Clearwater, Jendrynski-Rosser's kidneys repeatedly failed and she needed a respirator to breathe.

Although she later showed signs of improvement and treatment cured the malaria infection, she could not withstand another kidney failure, which was the final cause of death.

Recently Jendrynski-Rosser changed her last name from Jendrynski to her adoptive parents' name. David

and Pat Rosser of Clearwater adopted her when she was 15. Jendrynski-Rosser's father died when she was 3; her mother died when she was 13.

Before joining the Rosser family, she had moved in and out of several foster homes, a home for runaways, and a juvenile detention center.

The Rossers "took me to church and told me about Jesus," the young woman wrote. "At first I resisted all that they said, but I watched their lives. They were so full of love and peace I knew that I wanted what they had."

She went on to receive the bachelor of arts degree from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., in 1991. A musician, she played guitar and wrote music.

The loss of their daughter was a shock, Rosser admitted. But if he could turn the clock back, he said he would let her go overseas again. "I would tell her yes. Go. She was guided by the Lord and anybody who interfered would be wrong and would carry that shame."

"There's no shame in what has happened; there's only shame in dying without knowing our Lord."

Funeral services were planned for Feb. 14 at her home church, Calvary Church in Clearwater.

Martin writes for FMB.

## Most Americans believe only Jesus offers eternal life

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — Most Americans believe that faith in Jesus Christ is the only assurance of eternal life, according to research by the Princeton Religion Research Center.

In telephone surveys of 1,005 adults, 59% agreed personal faith in Jesus Christ is the only assurance of eternal life. Seventeen percent said they "agreed somewhat" with that statement.

Regional differences were evident in the study. In the South, 75% of people questioned said they believed Jesus is the only way to eternal life. In the West, only 45% agreed with that claim.

In another telephone survey of 1,012 adults, researchers found that 59% of those polled said religion can answer all or most of today's problems. The majority of people who expressed confidence in religion were blacks, 79%; Southerners, 73%; and women, 65%.

Twenty-two percent of the people questioned said religion is old-fashioned and out of date while 19% said they were undecided.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

## AFA calls for Frohnmayer's firing

TUPELO, Miss. (EP) — Chairman John Frohnmayer of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) should be fired and the agency shut down, according to the American Family Association (AFA). The AFA called for the action after learning that NEA funding had been given in support of two books: one shows one man masturbating another, and the other contains a poem about Jesus sodomizing a six-year-old boy.

Don Wildmon, head of the AFA, said that the federal funding of two books, *Queer City* and *Live Sex Acts*, should be the final straw necessary to convince Congress to shut down the NEA.

Records gained through the Freedom of Information Act show that the NEA gave artist Kurt Hollander \$5,000 to help fund the books, according to Wildmon.

"At a time when our government is denying money to aid a multitude of genuine needs, it is disgraceful that we should spend tax dollars this way," said Wildmon. "Congressmen and Senators who have consistently voted to continue tax funding for such trash must accept responsibility for this. Mr. Frohnmayer should be fired and the NEA closed down."

## FMB nears 125 countries

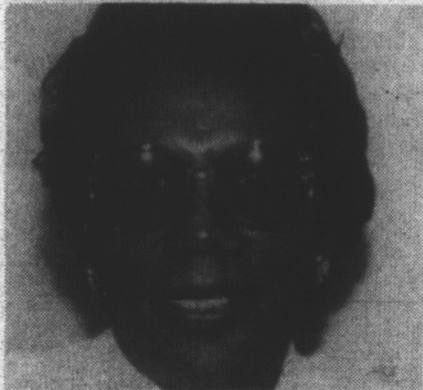
RICHMOND, Va. — Southern Baptist foreign missionaries now work in 122 countries, narrowing the gap in the Foreign Mission Board's goal of placing missionaries in 125 countries by the year 2000. The board advanced its country total when it reappointed missionaries Michael and Lynn Hutchinson to the west African nation of Guinea-Bissau. Hutchinson is from Mobile, Ala., and Mrs. Hutchinson is from Memphis, Tenn. The board also added Bulgaria and Romania to its count, but removed Guam and the Turks and Caicos islands in the Caribbean. The board transferred Guam to the Home Mission Board. Southern Baptist missionaries no longer live on the Turks and Caicos.



# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

## Luella Thompson retires



Luella Thompson

Another of my Baptist Building friends is retiring this month, and she's to be honored at a reception on Friday, Feb. 28. That's Luella Thompson, who began work for the Convention Board on Dec. 2, 1985, succeeding Beulah Bester as custodian.

Her husband, Leonard, I had known well and appreciated very much during the 22 years he was an employee of MBCB. Before his retirement, one of his responsibilities was to deliver Baptist Record copy to our printer.

"I'm excited," Luella said. "At first I thought I would be lonesome, but I'm ready now. First, I'll clean house and get organized."

No telling how many social events she has helped to prepare for at the Baptist Building — and to clean up after! "I drink a little coffee," she said — "but not nearly as much as some people." Every day in her job she has made at least 16 pots of it.

Now she can be home during those beautiful Mississippi spring days when she wants to get out her fishing pole. Her co-worker, Mary Everett, she said, taught her to enjoy fishing. "Mostly bass — anything I can eat." The biggest one she ever caught was a white perch. "But it got away. Mary was there, and she saw it. It really was big!"

Her flower and vegetable gardens will get lots more attention, too. "I love to eat vegetables from my garden in summer," she said. Her other favorite foods are pork chops, and of course fish. No matter what she'll be doing, her Chow dog, Dark Shadow, will be there to take good care of her.

One of three children, she was born Luella Lambert on Aug. 20, 1927 in Madison County near Canton. Neither her sister or brother is now living. After she was graduated from Cameron St. High School, she worked for Swift Poultry Company and then did laundry work from 1954 until she began work at the Baptist Building.

She and Leonard have five children — two girls and a three boys. Of six

grandchildren, the oldest granddaughter, Karen, is in her third year at Tougaloo College.

It was during a revival meeting when she was 20 that Luella met Leonard, who was a friend of her sister's boy friend. Two years later, in 1947, they married.

At age 14, she had been converted and baptized at Pleasant Gift Church. "I had been seeking for a while," she said. "When He came into my life, it made a change in my life. I continue to trust Him as true and living God."

Now she and Leonard are members of Greater Ross Chapel, where she teaches an intermediate Sunday School class, is chairman of the programs committee, and is president of the senior choir. "I like to sing in the choir," she said, "but not by myself!" She loves all music, including gospel and country. Her favorite hymn is "How Great Thou Art."

At a recent women's meeting, she gave a talk about love, concerning Mary, Martha, and Jesus and the love they had for each other, which is her favorite Bible story. Her favorite verse, John 3:16, also centers on love.

Most memorable answers to prayer that she recalls are those concerning the health of her daughter and her husband. "They are miracles, because of all the illness and surgeries they have been through," she said. "I pray every day for all I need. Sometimes he says no. If you don't get what you want, He gives you the strength to understand. His will is gonna be done. My pastor, Willie Brown Jr., used to say, 'When it comes to doing God's will, talk is cheap.'"

Leonard has been in hospital again during the past few weeks, but is home now and doing well. His being ill again, she said, was tough. But the tough times, she observes, "all pass over."

Probably the saddest and roughest time of her whole life, she remembers, was "when my mama died. I was about to get married. She wasn't even 40 yet. I was so lonely; it was really hard."

The best time of her life? "Now. As long as you feel good and can pay your bills, that's a pretty good time, isn't it? 'I trust God to take care of me. (No people sure will!) I try not to worry about too much.'"

Her friendliness, helpfulness, good sense of humor, her cheerfulness, and her dedication to the Lord are only some of the good qualities we have seen daily in her. She is a living example of Christianity in action.

Best wishes, Luella, as you open a new chapter.

## Nominations sought for president at Southeastern Seminary

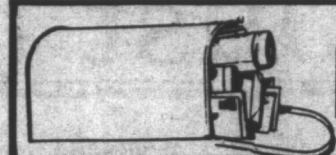
Southeastern Seminary is formally seeking nominations for the office of president. Trustees also invite comments from interested Southern Baptists relative to the development of a presidential profile.

Roger Ellsworth, current board chair, will head the search committee. The Administrative Manual of the seminary calls upon the executive committee of the trustees to serve as the Presidential Search Committee at the time a vacancy occurs in the office of the president. The manual also calls for the convening of an Advisory

Task Force and for a series of forums with various constituencies.

"Trustees are truly open to hearing from as many people as we can in this matter," Ellsworth said. "No decision has yet been made on any particular candidate, and we want to do all that we can to find God's candidate for the job."

Ellsworth asks that nominations be sent directly to him at 516 N. Main, Benton, Illinois 62812. Mail received at the seminary addressed to the Presidential Search Committee will be forwarded unopened to Ellsworth.



## Letters to the editor

### Clarks College plans reunion

Editor:

We are attempting to plan a reunion of former Clarke College students. If you attended college during 1959, 1960, or 1961, we would like to know your address. We have had one meeting and were able to secure some addresses. We are very interested in having a large turnout for this gathering.

For more information contact Annie Laurie Fleming Thornton, 138 St. Augustine Drive, Madison, MS 39110.

### Tribute to Moody

Editor:

The Jan. 30 issue of the Baptist Record gave the account of the death of Dale Moody, well known Southern Baptist teacher, preacher, theologian. I want to write a word of tribute to this one whom I regarded as a great Christian servant. There are many who knew him much better than I, but I doubt if many respected him any

more for his scholarship and profound biblical knowledge and insights. At one time he was an extremely popular conference speaker and seminar leader, frequently used in Mississippi.

Moody expressed a few interpretations of Scripture which some people found controversial and to which some strongly objected. For my own part I found that if I listened to Moody long enough and read his writings carefully enough, I usually had to agree with him.

There is one thing you can be sure of: he based his interpretations on a very keen knowledge of God's Word in the original language, and upon extensive studies in the great theological libraries of the world. It seemed to me he had read everything.

Among his numerous books and articles I am especially grateful for his commentary on the book of Romans in the Broadman Bible Commentary. He autographed a copy personally for me. I had an opportunity once to talk with him at length about this work and particularly about the part dealing with election. How many of us want to write a theological treatise on

election and predestination?

Many of us will miss hearing Moody's energetic preaching and teaching of God's Word, but we will continue to benefit from the rich legacy of his writings.

J. C. Mitchell  
Columbus

### Help needed in New England

Editor:

I am writing to you in hopes that you can do something to help our missions effort in New England. We are a small struggling church in a difficult area. We began in 1986 as HMB church planter apprentices. I would like to appeal to persons in your state who feel led to get more involved in missions:

Person(s) needed to serve alongside missionary family. Must be willing to have secular employment for support. Must share a vision for starting a cell group church. For information packet write to Calvary Baptist Church, P. O. Box 45, Keene, NH 03431.

## Greater Gulf Coast Bible Conference

Pass Road Baptist Church  
Gulfport, MS

March 8 - 12, 1992

4 services daily

10 a.m. 6 p.m.  
11 a.m. 7 p.m.

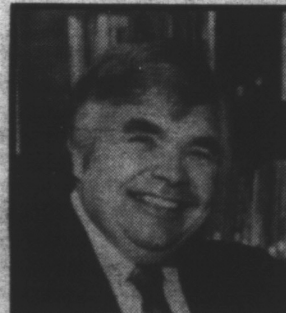
Nursery provided all services

Reservations:

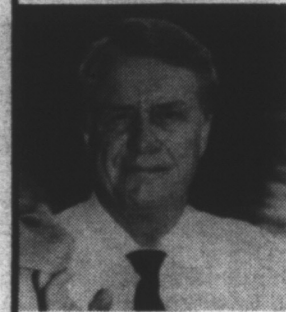
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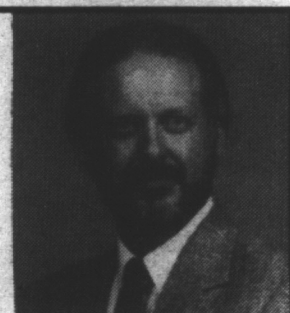
Herb Hodges



Doug White



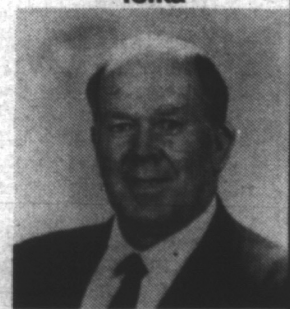
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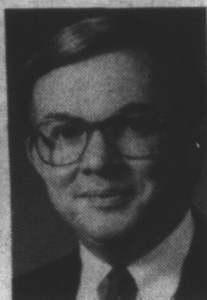
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## Baptist Nursing Fellowship invites student nurses to March event



Wilson



Jones

Baptist Student Union at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg will host student nurses from south Mississippi when the Baptist Nursing Fellowship and WMU sponsors the BNF Student Nurse Event on March 19 from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Program personnel will include

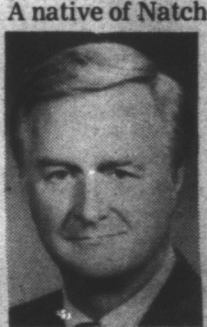
Graham Hales, chaplain at Forrest General Medical Center; Kaye Wilson, nursing instructor at Mississippi College; and Paul Jones, executive director, Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The topics to be discussed are a nurse's spiritual development, opportunities for medical missions involvement, and issues and answers for Christian nurses in the '90s.

The deadline for registration is March 17. A registration fee of \$2.00 per person should be mailed to BNF Student Nurse Event, WMU, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Make checks payable to Woman's Missionary Union, the sponsoring organizations of Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

## Staff changes

James W. Buie has been called as pastor of Westview Church, Jackson.



Buie

A native of Natchez, he is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife, Chris, have served as foreign missionaries in Spain in the area of evangelism and church development. He also served with the Home Mission Board as director of the Seamen's Center and Language Ministries at First Church, Baton Rouge, La. He is a former pastor of Woodville Heights Church, Jackson, and First Church, Byram.

Providence Church, Hattiesburg, has called Daniel Lee as minister of music and youth, effective Feb. 2. His previous place of service was First Church, Sumrall. He received his education at University of Southern Mississippi.

Calvary Church, Hattiesburg, has called John Voss of Purvis as interim pastor, effective Feb. 16. His previous places of service were Good Hope Church in Purvis and interim pastor at Oakland Grove Church in Laurel. Voss is now serving as legal counsel with Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

Myron Burris has recently been called as minister of music at Parkway Church, Natchez. He is a native of Meridian, and a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He served as minister of music and youth at Oak Grove Church, Meridian and as minister of music at First Church, Poplarville before moving to Natchez.



Burris

## Legislative Alert

J. Brent Walker  
Associate General Counsel  
Baptist Joint Committee  
February 12, 1992

How would you like for your church to be forced to give the IRS your name, Social Security number, the amount of your tithe, and the circumstances under which your various gifts were made?

The Bush administration's new tax proposal would do just that if you give more than \$500 a year. What is worse, tax writing committees in Congress will be considering this proposal soon: beginning Feb. 12 in the House and Feb. 25 in the Senate.

Under existing law, churches and related organizations are exempted from filing annual reports. So this new proposal represents a drastic departure from long-standing practice and opens the door to destructive governmental intrusion into church affairs and unwholesome entanglement between church and state.

The stated rationale for this reporting requirement is to check the accuracy of claimed deductions. If the IRS questions a deduction in the course of auditing a taxpayer, it can legitimately ask the church to corroborate the claim. But this across-the-board reporting requirement on churches violates a confidential relationship with church members and requires churches to be the unwitting instrument of tax enforcement against individual contributors.

Please contact your Representative and Senators as soon as possible, particularly if they serve on House Ways and Means or Senate Finance Committees, to register your opposition to this ill-conceived proposal.

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
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Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3121

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

# Just for the Record

Groundbreaking ceremonies were recently held at Evansville Church, Tate County, for a new auditorium which will seat about 300 people. The building committee, pictured, left to right, are Jimmie Still, Johnnie Hawkins, John Turley, C. H. Dye, Doris Knight, and Bernette Fielder, pastor. A choir room and a new pastor's office will be included. The old sanctuary will be renovated into Sunday School rooms, the church secretary's office, fellowship hall, and kitchen. James Hugh Powell is the music director and Les Mason is the minister of youth.



## Two GA Days are slated for March

The state Woman's Missionary Union is sponsoring two GA days during March. On March 14, GA Day will be held at Central Hills Baptist Retreat. The theme will be "From All the World" from the Sandi Patti song of the same title. Each session will teach a portion of the theme song in sign language. All will come together in the closing session to perform in sign and song.

Four sessions will include music, drama and mime, clowning and puppets, and missionary. Each session will portray how to share an aspect of God's character to all the world.

The Central Hills GA Day will begin at 10 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. The cost will be \$2.00 for insurance and a drink. The GAs are asked to bring a sack lunch. Reservations for Central Hills GA Day must be made through the WMU office, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, 39205.

Camp Garaywa will host GA Day on March 28 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The theme of this GA Day will be "Hopes Set High," from the song made popular by Amy Grant. Each session will expand on a portion of the chorus of the theme song. The sessions will include missionary ("see the light"); music ("see the truth"); drama ("do my best"); clowning and puppets ("pray to the Father"). The cost will be \$5 for insurance, sack lunch, and drink.

The GA Day at Camp Garaywa will be preceded by a 5th-6th grade GA Mother/Daughter Overnight that will begin at 4 p.m. on Friday and conclude with GA Day activities on Saturday. The overnight will cost \$21.00 per person.

Reservations for Camp Garaywa should be mailed to Camp Garaywa, P. O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060.

## Enon Church (Winston) to celebrate 150th

Enon Baptist Church, Winston County, will have its 150th anniversary in March.

A celebration will take place at the church on Sunday, June 7. An invitation is extended to all former pastors and their families and former music directors and their families.

Traditionally, the second Sunday in May has been homecoming or Memorial Day. This has been changed to June 7 for a joint service, sesquicentennial and homecoming. Mark Shaw is pastor and Reggie Lovorn is music director.

## WMU schedules conference for ministers' wives

"Call to Joy," a celebration for ministers' wives, will be held Aug. 13-15 in Birmingham. Esther Burroughs, noted author and speaker on women and evangelism, will be the featured speaker. Individual registration is \$75 per person (\$70 if registered by May 15) and the Sheraton Perimeter Park South Hotel will be the meeting place. Rooms are available from \$60 per night for single or double occupancy.

The conference will be fun, informative, and inspiring, according to the Woman's Missionary Union, sponsor for the event. Conferences on "Living in a Fishbowl," "Forced Termination," "Life Management," and "Friendship" will be offered.

To register, send \$75 (checks payable to Woman's Missionary Union, SBC) to Accounting, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010, or call (201) 991-4933.

## capsules

**GRANDPARENTING CLASS OFFERED AT MBMC: JACKSON** — If the grandchild you're expecting is always on your mind, you can prepare for your new role on Tuesday, March 3, with Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Grandparenting class. The session covers changes in labor and delivery and the focus on family-centered maternity care. The agenda also includes a refresher on baby feeding and safety and a discussion of basic diplomacy for the newly extended family. The fee for the program taught by MBMC maternal/newborn educators is \$5. Grandparenting is one of eight childbirth preparation classes offered by MBMC. For more information about the class, which is offered the first Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m., call 968-1406.

**MISSIONS DAY CAMP AT SBC TO PROVIDE FUN FOR CHILDREN: MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)** — While parents are tending to convention business, singing, praying, listening, voting, and standing in lines at the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis, their children may be involved in action-packed activities at the SBC Missions Day Camp. To register children for the day camp, visit the Missions Day Camp booth near the messenger registration area of the convention center on Monday, 8 a.m. through 5 p.m., or during daytime convention sessions Tuesday through Thursday. The day camp will use the facilities of Northside Church in Indianapolis, 10 miles north of the downtown area. Transportation will be provided to and from the day camp from the convention center.

**First Church, Aberdeen**, will have dedication services for its family life center-education complex on March 15. Homecoming services will be held at 11 a.m. Dedication services will begin following dinner in the gymnasium. The theme will be "A Heritage to Celebrate." Alan Kilgore is pastor.

**New Hope Foundation, Inc.**, a non-profit community based organization, which provides alcohol and drug abuse rehabilitation services will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a workshop on "Drugs, AIDS and Gangs," 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 516 North Mill Street on March 14. For more information, call 353-0502.

**Oral Church, Sumrall**, will have a fish and chicken supper, Feb. 29, 5 p.m., to raise money for its building fund on the auditorium and education building. The price will be \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children (12 and under). B. J. Barrett is pastor.

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# FMB administrators react to Ballenger, Parker stand

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Two Foreign Mission Board vice presidents have written administrators in their areas to express a different perspective on relationships with the board's trustees than that of the two top Europe administrators who resigned in protest Jan. 7.

Bill Wakefield, vice president for Asia and the Pacific, wrote in a Jan. 17 letter that his own assessment of the defunding of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, is that the trustee decision resulted from a long history of unusual financial support for this institution. He believes this was a ma-

nor factor that led the trustees to "look at the seminary as a whole in determining their action."

Wakefield said he has "no reason to believe that the decision regarding this seminary represents a pattern of trustee involvement which would result in similar involvement in Asia. Certainly," he added, "I have not experienced problems in working with the trustees in a similar way."

Lewis Myers, a Mississippian, vice president for Cooperative Services International, wrote a confidential memo Jan. 10 to top administrators of the Southern Baptist aid organization. In the memo, Myers said his perception "is that this board continues to be

a viable and desirable instrument for Southern Baptists to use to accomplish our missions agenda."

Myers said the board is "not a perfect instrument and never has been, but it is the best we have available and I am committed to it. I want to affirm my own commitment to continue serving the cause of global missions through this board." He added: "In working with the CSI Committee I have not been unduly circumscribed by non-missions agendas, moves to achieve and/or exert power on the part of any individual, confusion of the roles of staff and trustees, nor mutual distrust."

"What is ultimately at stake here is the salvation of the millions of people

who have not yet heard the gospel . . . This is the time to double our prayer efforts on behalf of our global mission and in support of each other," Myers said.

A third top administrator, Bill Bullington, vice president for Africa, said he did not write to administrators of his area but said he has tried to express his personal opinion that "the Foreign Mission Board is still the best option for mission service overseas." He said the board has nearly 4,000 missionaries who are "doing a good job and need our support."

Parks, asked about the administrators' statements, said, "I feel missionaries, trustees and staff all have the right to express their own opinion about matters like this, and it has never been my desire nor intention to try to control that." A letter from administrators to missionaries to interpret unusual events is a fairly normal procedure, Parks said.

The administrators' decision to step down followed weeks of controversy after the trustees' action in October transferring \$365,000 in funds originally earmarked for the Ruschlikon seminary to theological education in Eastern Europe.

Wakefield said he decided he needed to send a statement after learning that another representative from the FMB had carried to Asia copies of the Ballenger and Parker statements.

In his letter, Wakefield said that "some folks on the field" had asked whether the viewpoints of Ballenger and Parker are "a perception shared by all of the Global Strategy Group."

the FMB's top executive planning council. In private conversations with Ballenger, he said, "some of us shared with Isam that while respecting his convictions and perspective, we did not share these and would need to let this be known in order to clarify the matter."

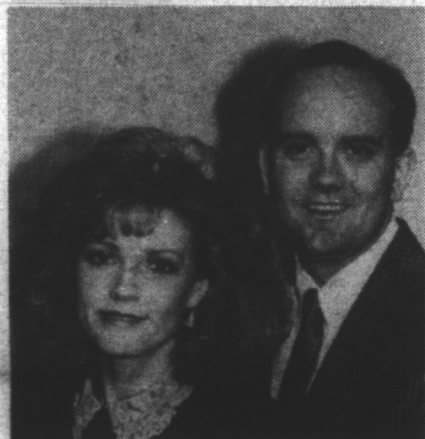
"My own personal assessment of the situation is that this action on the part of the trustees comes as a result of this history," Wakefield said. "I have no reason to feel that the decision regarding this seminary represents a pattern of trustee involvement which would result in similar involvement in Asia. Certainly I have not experienced problems in working with the trustees in a similar way."

Referring to the statements of the retired Europe administrators, Wakefield said he does not agree with their assessment that trustees will be involving themselves in field matters and making inappropriate decisions based on doctrinal purity at the expense of missiological principles. "I don't find evidence of this at the present time as I examine our experiences these last few years," he wrote.

Stanley writes for FMB.

## Names in the news

WMU of East Corinth Church, Alcorn Association, recently honored Mrs. Mary Wilbanks for her many years of support to world missions. Pictured are Ralph Culp, pastor; Lily Culp; Mrs. Wilbanks; and Pat Stewart, WMU director.



Brad and Tammy Jones, Meridian, have recently entered full time music evangelism. They both are 1986 graduates of William Carey and have two sons, Brice, 4, and Devin, 2. For the past ten years, Brad and Tammy have ministered together in a team-style effort serving churches, in revivals, concerts, retreats, and banquets. Recently, they recorded their first album, "Turning Hearts Toward Home." For more information call 482-7798.

Jerry Clower, Grand Ole Opry comedian, Mississippi native, and Southern Baptist layman, has completed a new book. *Stories from Home* will be published in April by University Press of Mississippi, and contains 125 of Clowers' humorous stories, along with an interview with the storyteller.

First Church, Rose Hill, will present Danny Lanier of Little Rock in concert, on Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. Keith Bogan is pastor.

Larry S. McDonald, pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon, has been recognized by Who's Who in Religion. McDonald has just started his third year at Castlewoods Church and is currently serving as president of the Northwest Rankin Interdenominational Pastors' Association and of the Rankin Baptist Pastors' Association.

The Blue Mountain College Department of Music will present Jaan-ay Tyan in her senior organ recital on March 31, in Lowery Memorial Church, Blue Mountain. The recital is at 8. Tyan graduated from the China Management of Industry and Commerce Junior College in 1978 and from the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary in 1985. While on the staff of the Baptist Church in Mei-Ren, she taught beginning piano at the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary. Jaan-ay is a candidate for the bachelor of music degree from Blue Mountain College. After a short visit home, Jaan-ay plans to attend graduate school and then return to China to teach organ and church music.



Jeff Harrison (right) was ordained into the ministry Feb. 9, at Emmanuel Church, Pearl. Tommy Anderson (left) is pastor of Emmanuel Church.

Carol Leigh Humphries, a retired Southern Baptist missionary who worked in Nigeria for 35 years, died of cancer Feb. 11. She was 68. Humphries, who was appointed a missionary in 1951, was director of northern Nigeria's Woman's Missionary Union from 1961 to 1971 in Jos, Nigeria. She was from North Carolina.

Mary Ellen Yancey, a retired Southern Baptist missionary who worked in Nigeria for 39 years, died in an automobile accident Jan. 30. She was 72. While driving alone, Yancey collided head-on with another automobile two miles east of her hometown, Camp Hill, Ala., on U.S. Highway 280. The other driver, who was also alone, died in the crash. Yancey, who was appointed a missionary in 1947, was executive secretary of Nigeria's Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Convention, 1961-85, in Ibadan, Nigeria.

## Revival dates

Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville: March 15-18; Lamar Ball, Northside Church, Savannah, Tenn., evangelist; Billy Joe Kennedy, Hopewell Church, Savannah, Tenn., music; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Sunday-Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Larry D. Robertson, pastor.

Bovina Church, Vicksburg: March 1-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; Hubert Stroud, music; cottage prayer services will be held at church, Feb. 26-29, 7 p.m.; Feb. 29, fish-fry at 5:30 p.m.

First Church, Ridgeland: March 8-11; Gene Williams, pastor, First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., evangelist; Graham Smith, director, Church Music Department, MBCB,

music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Ed Griffin, pastor.

Concord Church, Dry Creek, Booneville: March 1-6; Kenny Digby, evangelist, Fulton; Gerald Thompson, music; services, Sunday, 11 a.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:15 p.m.; W. G. Dowdy, pastor.

## Revival results

Straight Bayou Church, Anguilla: Feb. 9-14; J. Harold Smith, Newport, Tenn., evangelist; John and Lisa McDaniel, Memphis, Tenn., music; professions of faith, 16; Brad Banks, pastor.

## Lottie Moon goals met

Spring Creek Church, Neshoba Association, was successful in surpassing the goal of \$3,300, with a total of \$4,591 for Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

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**BENNETT**

From page 3

referred to the administrative subcommittee for further study.

Also approved were amended articles of incorporation for Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., which reflects an Executive Committee request to end a stipulation the seminary could remove convention-elected trustees. A companion request for an SBC bylaw on trustee absenteeism also was approved with both proposals sent to the SBC June meeting.

In other action, the Executive Committee approved: Bill Meleski of Kenai, Alaska, and Wendell Wood of Burton, Mich., to fill vacancies on the

1991-92 SBC committee on nominations; a \$1,000-per-day, plus expenses, contract with C. Barry McCarty, president, Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary, to serve as chief parliamentarian during the Indianapolis SBC meeting; and an application for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey for full representation on SBC entities.

That state convention reached church membership of 25,553 with 158 churches and 44 church-type missions, qualifying for the additional representation.

Executive Committee members approved a 5% increase adjustment in their staff's salary structure, effective Oct. 1.

## Morris Chapman elected; salary set at \$120,000

NASHVILLE (BP) — "I want God's will, nothing more, nothing less."

And praying for a "spiritual awakening through Southern Baptists to this nation," Morris H. Chapman accepted election as the fifth president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee during the committee's opening meeting Feb. 17 in Nashville.

Chapman will finish his second one-year term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the annual meeting in Indianapolis on June 11. Four days later, June 15, he will become president and treasurer-elect of the Executive Committee and succeed Harold C. Bennett on Oct. 1. Bennett retires Sept. 30.

Julian M. Motley, search committee chairman, said Chapman's salary would be \$120,000, including a housing allowance. Motley said the salary figure is below what Bennett currently is receiving but the committee felt the economic conditions dictated the suggested lower figure, in agreement with Chapman.

"I see myself as carrying out the

will of the majority and carrying out genuine healing among Southern Baptists," Chapman said. In an apparent reference to his new position as chief executive officer for the group which distributes a Cooperative Program budget of \$140 million, Chapman said "sometimes we fret too much over finances. I believe God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. Not figures, facts, or finances will carry us through these days... only faith."

Saying he would speak the truth in love in a troubled Southern Baptist Convention, Chapman said his convictions about God's Word are the same as "I heard growing up as a boy in Kosciusko, Miss."

Motley said the eight-month search for a new president and treasurer was a life enriching and rewarding experience for the 10-member committee. Eleven candidates were recommended to the committee, Motley said, with six meetings and three conference calls held. Three of the candidates eventually were interviewed by the committee. The committee spent about \$25,000 during the search process, Motley said.

**HOMOSEXUALITY**

From page 3

members referred another motion by Pinckney to their bylaws workgroup. Pinckney brought the motions to the Executive Committee's closing session after failing to get them reported out of a subcommittee.

Both the administrative subcommittee and the bylaws workgroup are to report their recommendations to the Executive Committee in time for the items to be considered during this year's Southern Baptist Convention, June 9-11 in Indianapolis.

Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Executive Committee since 1979, said in response to a question he could not recall the group ever adopting a resolution on a social issue.

"We probably have never been faced... with this kind of aberration," noted committee member Guy Sanders, a pastor from Florida.

News of the two churches' homosexual-related deliberations has prompted an array of reactions across the Southern Baptist Convention.

Siler said he has been "amazed at the intensity and breadth of interest. It's kind of like we named a family secret, in that there are homosexual persons and parents with homosexual children in every church."

"We hope by us dealing openly with the request that it might encourage the larger church to discern its own sense of God's will in regard to homosexual persons."

Beyond its ties to the Southern Baptist Convention, the church is affiliated with the American Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the Southern Baptist Alliance, Siler said.

Taalston writes for BP.

## Missionary news

Henry and Linda Lee, missionaries to Japan, are in the States (address: 605 Ash St., Conway, Ark. 72032). He is a native of Clarksdale. The former Linda Jackson, she was born in New Orleans, La., and considers Hazlehurst her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1985.

Tom and Hazel Barron, missionaries to Indonesia, are in the States (address: 2103 Hampton Ave., Nashville, Tenn. 37215). He was born in Forest, La., and grew up in Richton, Miss. She is the former Hazel Clark of Richton.

Jonathan and La Homa Singleton, missionaries to Windward Islands, are in the States (address: Oklahoma Baptist University, 500 W. University, Shawnee, Okla. 74801). He is a native of Belzoni. The former La Homa Martin, she was born near California, Mo.



## Mission work in the Philippines

A group of five Mississippi Baptists left on Jan. 23 to a mission trip to the Island of Negros, Philippines. They were Doug Christy, pastor, New Prospect Church, Iuka; John Hill, retired pastor and schoolteacher, and Sarah Hill, retired schoolteacher, members of Union Church, Picayune; Terry Ledbetter, pastor, Union Church, Picayune; and Ben Parman, pastor, Gaston Church, Booneville.

This trip involved personal witnessing, women's meetings, daily high school and college evangelistic meetings, nightly open air plaza meetings, and one pastor's conference with over 100 pastors from all over the island in attendance.

The team worked directly with Ben Barredo III in Bacolod City, Negros Province, Philippines. Benji is the director of Cross International Ministries.

The group was accommodated by Gerald and Glenda Davis (Southern Baptist missionaries in Manila). They were able to see first hand the work being done there by the Davis' and others.

Many came to Christ as a result of this type of campaign. It will be an ongoing program several times a year.



## CLC, BJCPA disapprove of IRS plans which require churches to watchdog

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs have expressed strong disapproval to Congress of a White House proposal requiring churches to make burdensome and unprecedented government reports on contributors.

Under the proposal in President George Bush's recently announced 1993 budget, churches and religious organizations would be required to report to the Internal Revenue Service the name, address, Taxpayer Identification Number, amount given, and the circumstances under which contributions were made on every person who gave more than \$500 during the calendar year. The Tax Identification Number usually is the person's Social Security number.

If passed, the reporting requirement would affect about 80% of Southern Baptist churches. Churches with receipts of less than \$25,000 in a year would not be required to make such reports. About 7,500 of the Convention's 38,000 churches report annual contributions of less than \$25,000, said a staff member in the Sunday School Board's corporate planning and research department.

The CLC, joined by the National Association of Evangelicals, and the BJC wrote separate letters criticizing the proposal shortly before the President's tax-package proposal was reported to the House of Representatives without recommendation by

the Ways and Means Committee Feb. 12.

The proposal would not only burden many small churches but would entangle liable churches in the "government's tax collection business," the CLC and NAE said in a letter to leaders of Congress' tax-writing committees.

The reporting requirement "would offend deeply held religious principles about the privacy of one's gift to God through the church," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the CLC, and Robert Dugan, director of the NAE's office of public affairs.

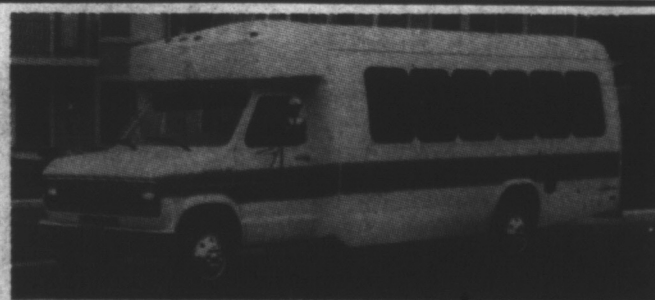
While the government may be expected "to impose reasonable requirements for documentation" of

gifts to churches and other charities, the burden for obtaining such information should be on the donor, Land and Dugan said in their letter.

President Bush has set a March 20 deadline for Congress to deal with his short-term economic package, which includes the proposal on charitable giving. Under the proposal, contributions made beginning July 1 of this year will be affected.

The reason given for the new reporting requirement is to help IRS distinguish between gifts to churches/charities and payments to churches/charities for such goods or services as entertainment events or items purchased at charity auctions.

Strode is director, media & news information, Washington office, CLC.



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## LIFE AND WORK

### Counting the cost



By Lola M. Antry  
Matthew 8:18-22; 10:24-39; 16:13-28

A little boy stood in front of a jewelry counter wistfully eyeing a ring display. Mother's Day was the next day. He had no gift for his mother. He had no money. He slipped one of the rings into his pocket, and started for the door. Before he reached it he returned to the counter. Tears rimmed his eyes as he put the ring back. Shoulders straight, head high, tears now streaming, he walked from the store. He had counted the cost. He would have violated his mother's teachings as well as her love. Being disciples of the Messiah-King requires our commitment to following his teachings and honoring his love. What is the cost?

**Case studies in discipleship (8:19-22).** To the scribe who volunteered to follow Jesus, Jesus pointed out some of the physical hardships. To the disciple who said, "Allow me to bury my father first," Jesus replied that the imperative was to follow him. Others could tend the home front. Jesus was not being cruel. Through stark pronouncement he made known that following him entails personal sacrifice.

**The uncompromising nature of discipleship (10:32-34, 37).** It is our duty to make known that we belong to Jesus. If we deny him, he will deny us. Verse 37 emphasizes that he is to be supreme in our lives. One commentator states that if we love our families more than we love Christ, we are unworthy of him. This by no means suggests we should not love and esteem our parents, children, and other family members. It does tell us to keep our perspectives in order.

**Christ's cross and ours (16:21, 24).** Simon Peter in verse 16 had confessed Christ as the Messiah, the Son of God. When Jesus found the disciples knowing a truth he then showed them a new one. Verse 21 tells that he began to let them know of his future sufferings and death. They did not understand at the time, but the beauty of the verse is "and be raised again the third day." After the disclosures in verse 21 he explains their roles as followers. These are our roles also:

(1) "Deny himself." One means of self-denial is to put aside personal desires in order to serve him. As a young man my husband dreamed of being a lawyer. God called him to be a preacher. He obeyed that call.

(2) "Take up his cross." Whatever that cross, be thankful (Col. 2:6-7).

(3) "Follow me."

**The cost of discipleship (16:25).** The person who forsakes Christ on this earth will be forsaken by him in eternity. The one who denies himself, takes up his cross, and follows Christ on this earth will NEVER be forsaken by him. Life may be difficult here for the Christian, but being with him in eternity will make up for all earthly self-denials, problems, and heartaches.

The poet James Whitcomb Riley wrote: "There, little girl, don't cry. They have broken your doll, I know. And your tea set blue, and your play house, too, are things of the long ago. There, little girl, don't cry. Childish troubles will soon pass by. There, little girl, don't cry. They have broken your slate, I know. And the glad wild ways of your schoolgirl days are things of the long ago. There, little girl, don't cry. Life and love will soon pass by. There, little girl, don't cry. They have broken your heart, I know. And your rainbow gleams of your youthful dreams are things of the long ago. There, little girl, don't cry. Heaven holds all for which you sigh. There, little girl, don't cry."

Heaven holds all for the one who follows Jesus.

Antry lives in Hickory Flat, and is a member of Pine Grove Church, Benton County.

## BIBLE BOOK

### Israel's political decay



By Charles Nestor  
Hosea 7:8-12; 8:4-8; 10:9-12

The message Hosea comes to deliver now deals with both political and religious issues. Hosea is respected as a messenger of God, and whether the people like or dislike his words, they understood them.

**I. The danger of foreign alliances (7:8-12).** The covenant God had with Israel commanded her to remain a holy nation, consecrated to God for his purpose of redemption. God promised he would protect and provide for her. Israel broke the covenant by searching for security through her pagan neighbors. Israel's disobedience was encouraged by the political leaders. She turned from the security and love of God to take on the evil habits of her neighbors. Hosea describes the Israelites as unbaked cakes (like pancakes). The cakes were not turned, so they were burned on one side and raw on the other. This describes a half-baked or half-hearted commitment to God. Israel's condition was not fit for use but only to be thrown out.

Hosea emphasizes the destructive nature of sin. Israel was marked by violence, immorality, spiritual bankruptcy, separation from God, and was led by those who were incompetent and corrupt. They willfully and persistently rejected God and became arrogant in their sinning. God rebuked them and plead for their return to him in repentance. However, arrogance led them to continue rejecting God's call to repent and return.

Israel had developed unstable relationships with her neighbor nations. One leader would rise to position and want to look to Assyria for help. Another leader would want to align with Egypt. Hosea describes their oscillating devotion as "silly doves."

These people had the same problem we have today. It is sin! It has always been detrimental to people's relationships to God. It's sad, but we have not improved in our relationships with God since the time of Hosea. We have just learned how to sin more blatantly and with greater passion. In many instances, it is the accepted way of life. There are broken marriages, family relationships, friendships, etc., which are results of sin.

**II. God condemns Israel for idol worship (8:4-8).** Israel was busy doing it her way, regardless of the will of God. Power struggles over who would sit on the throne led her away from God. Kings were rising and falling quickly. The will of God was not considered.

The sins of Israel were further compounded by their making idols to worship. The irony of it all is that the silver and gold used to make idols were gifts from God. One of the commandments God gave his people was to never worship any other gods. Their action was a direct violation. God will not tolerate such disobedience. Hosea warned that their alignment with these foreign nations was destroying their spiritual lives. They were making a name for themselves among the nations as a useless vessel. Hosea describes it as sowing to the wind and reaping a whirlwind. They were like empty stems of grain. Even if a crop is produced it will be devoured by foreigners. Israel was being consumed by her sin.

Sin has always had such an effect. James compares Satan to a roaring lion who seeks anyone he can devour. Israel's experience is a word of warning to us concerning political leaders and our Christian involvement. We are to worship and serve God.

**III. Judgment on a corrupt society (10:9-12).** Sin always has a payday, and Israel is going to pay. Hosea links their present sin with that of Gibeah. It was there that a Levite's concubine was assaulted and subsequent civil war occurred. Gibeah was also the home of Saul. When Israel rebelled and demanded a king to lead them, Saul was the appointed king. Again, Israel was to be punished for her sin.

Hosea uses agricultural terms to describe the punishment. The easy days were over. Now their neck would be put to the yoke. Plowing and harrowing are the labors necessary before planting and harvesting. Judgment of Israel was necessary before they would seek the Lord and repent of their sin.

It is sad that God must go to such extent to get our attention; but it was true during Hosea's ministry, and it is true today. We can be sure that our sins do not go unnoticed by God. Christians are to be salt and light in the society where we live. God help us to be faithful.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

## UNIFORM

### Entering God's kingdom



By Bobby Williamson  
Mark 1:1-15

One of the most penetrating questions of all times is, "What must I do to go to heaven?" Another important question that everyone should ask is, "How can I become a part of God's family upon this earth?"

If you were to ask one thousand Mississippians at random the answers to these questions, you would be surprised at the variety of answers you would receive, especially from church members. Whatever the opinion of various people, the scriptural admonition is clear. People can enter God's kingdom only by repenting of their sins, believing the good news of Christ, and placing their faith in him.

**Introduction (1:1).** Here Mark begins his gospel by emphasizing the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. By the "beginning of the gospel," Mark evidently means the blessed story he is about to tell of Christ's life, ministry, death, resurrection, and glorification, and of the begun gathering of believers in his name. Let's not confuse this introduction as one to Mark's book, but as one to the life of Christ. Mark's emphasis on the good news about Christ can move adults to a deeper reverence for Jesus as God's Son.

**John the Baptist's ministry (1:2-8).** In verses 2-3 we find the prophecy of Isaiah concerning John the Baptist preparing the Messiah's way. In the Hebrew text, the quote from Isaiah in Mark 1:3 begins, "In the wilderness prepare...." John the Baptist's coming to prepare Jesus' way can remind each of us that our task is to share the good news of Christ.

In Paul Powell's book, *How to Build an Evangelistic Church*, Powell makes the statement, "Are we going to be keepers of the aquarium, or fishers of men?" We may do a good job of discipling the church members we have, but if we fail to do the job of evangelism, we have lost the church for the next generation."

In verses 4-5 and 14-15 John's and Jesus' messages of repentance and of belief in the gospel can lead souls to repent and respond to Christ in faith. As Southern Baptists we believe that scriptural baptism symbolizes one's faith commitment to Christ. It does not save, but it is an act of obedience and of witness to one's faith. John's baptism was a rite of cleansing, not Christian baptism.

John preached a message of baptism based on repentance of sins, and many people responded. John's affirmation that the One coming behind him was mightier than himself should remind all of Jesus' superiority over all other persons.

In these verses we find our Lord coming to the River Jordan, being baptized by John, and hearing a heavenly voice affirming that he was God's Son. I find it interesting that Jesus began his ministry by being baptized, and ended his earthly ministry instructing us to "make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." It was also very important to Jesus that he be baptized by immersion. This is evident in the fact that he traveled some distance for an appropriate place to be baptized. We as Southern Baptists believe that the biblical method of baptism is immersion.

**Jesus' temptation in the wilderness (1:12-13).** We should note here Mark's statement that the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness. The New American Standard version says, "The Spirit impelled him to go into the wilderness." As Christians we have all sensed the Holy Spirit impelling us to do something. Here the word means a heavy conviction and impelling by the Holy Spirit. It is a wonderful truth revealed to us here as Jesus overcame temptation, setting the example for each of us that there can be victory over temptation.

We must share the gospel with a lost and dying world and show them that by repenting of their sins, believing the good news of Christ, and placing their faith in him, they too can enter God's kingdom.

Remember that March 1-8 is the "Week of Prayer for Home Missions." That week and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are times for each of us to spread the gospel to all the world.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.





# Romania offers FMB foothold for new Europe strategy

By Greg Warner

(ABP) — Romanian Baptists, for decades isolated from their Baptist brethren worldwide, now find themselves at the center of an international tug of war between Baptists on two continents.

What is at stake, according to some on both sides, is nothing less than the future of Baptists in Europe.

Two events combined to make this unlikely scenario possible:

— After the fall of Romania's totalitarian government in 1989, the Baptist Union of Romania, fearful that its own government-approved leaders had become "compromised" during communist rule, acted to remedy the problem with a clean sweep of union leadership. Ultraconservative Baptists, who for many years had operated on the fringe of the union, moved into the power vacuum.

— In the United States, conservative Southern Baptists rose to power and began forging a new alliance with conservative Romanian Baptists. Their goal in Romania, they admit privately, is to gain a foothold for a new mission strategy for the continent — one that commits the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to work with a more conservative "emerging leadership" in all of Europe.

"I think Romania is the linchpin nation for Europe, at least for Baptists in Europe," explained Phil Roberts, a Southern Baptist working in Romania.

Roberts may be a linchpin of sorts himself. He is academic dean of the Oradea Bible Institute, an independent church-based school founded by Josef Tson, probably the most powerful of Romania's new ultraconser-

vative leaders.

Roberts is a conservative who has taught evangelism at two Southern Baptist seminaries, most recently Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Although not a missionary, he has served as pastor of three English-speaking churches in Europe.

"Phil Roberts is an expert on Europe," said FMB trustee Ron Wilson of Thousand Oaks, Calif. Roberts has been a major resource for trustees wanting inside information on Europe from "outside normal (FMB) channels," said Wilson, who serves on the FMB committee that oversees work on the continent.

Roberts' brother, Roger, is an FMB trustee. His former pastor is FMB chairman Bill Hancock of Louisville, Ky. And Roberts counts another former chairman, North Carolina pastor Mark Cortis, as a personal friend.

It's little wonder Wilson and other FMB trustees have their eyes on Roberts to take a key position on the FMB's restructured European staff, perhaps replacing area director Keith Parker, who resigned in January over what he called the trustees' imposition of "theological orthodoxy" on Europeans.

Roberts said the rumor he will replace Parker is "speculative," particularly since it would be a departure from FMB policy to hire a non-missionary for the post. But he added he "probably could help" the FMB in such a role.

Trustee Wilson said few of his colleagues would be opposed to hiring Roberts, regardless of policy, because of the need for "new blood from out-

side the system."

Several FMB staff members say privately that Roberts already plays a key role, using his ties with trustees to undermine FMB staff. And they charge he has parlayed those connections into a promise of FMB money for the Oradea school.

"It's a foregone conclusion that the money was promised by trustees," said one FMB insider, who asked not to be identified out of fear of reprisal. Another said Romanian leaders have acknowledged the promise of "large sums of money" for Oradea — as much as \$2 million.

When FMB trustees defunded the European Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, last October for alleged liberalism, the Baptist Union of Romania ignored an avalanche of protests and endorsed the action.

It was the only union in Europe to do so.

Since the Oradea school stands to gain financially from Ruschlikon's loss, the Romanian endorsement sparked charges of collusion.

"This decision was motivated by promises of massive funding in return for their support," said Charles Thomas, a Southern Baptist missionary in Romania. Thomas and his wife, Kathie, resigned as Southern Baptist missionaries in protest.

Nic Gheorghita, general secretary of the Romanian union, Phil Roberts and FMB trustees publicly deny any deal was struck. And no proof of a promise has surfaced.

But trustee Wilson predicted at least some of the Ruschlikon money will go to the Oradea school: "I think we've all assumed that. I'd be surpris-

ed if it didn't."

The validity of the Romanian endorsement has since come under question from Romanians themselves.

The confusion centers in part around the role of Josef Tson, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Oradea and founder and chancellor of the institute.

When he returned to Oradea after the fall of Ceausescu, Tson led the 3,000-member church — one of the largest in Europe — to found the Oradea Bible Institute in October 1990.

Tson serves as chairman of the union's theological education committee, which will give him significant influence over how any FMB money for education is spent in Romania.

Since opening in 1990, Roberts said, the Bible institute already has grown to 190 ministry students, compared to 138 enrolled in the older, union-run Bucharest seminary.

Under communism, the government tried to close down churches by limiting the number of students allowed in seminaries and creating a pastor shortage. As a result, there are few trained pastors in the country and most pastors serve multiple churches.

Despite open doors throughout Europe, Romania offers the best opportunity for stateside Baptists to make an immediate impact, say Roberts and others.

The reasons why Romania is the "linchpin" for Europe, Roberts said, are both mathematical and spiritual. Romania has more Baptists than any other European country except the former Soviet Union and Great Britain.

Baptists in Romania represent a larger percentage of the population than anywhere in Europe, Roberts said.

And churches are growing. "There is a spiritual intensity in Romania that could produce explosive growth," Roberts said.

FMB trustees, who chafed for years at the high cost of theological education at Ruschlikon, have been attracted by the relatively low cost of doing missions in Romania, where American dollars go further than in much of the world.

Tson, because of his time spent in the States, has established alliances with prominent conservatives both inside the SBC and beyond, many of whom funded his work even before the fall of Romania's government.

It is clear from the Romanians themselves that the flap over the Ruschlikon endorsement has embroiled them in a controversy they neither want nor understand. Some say the battle that has divided Southern Baptists for more than a decade now threatens to drive a wedge into the Romanians' already fragile fellowship.

"In totalitarianism there was unity; in freedom there is division," said Paul Thibodeaux, Mississippian, the FMB's associate area director for Eastern Europe.

"It could be that the Western mission organizations, with their money and differing mission philosophies, could do what the iron-fisted Stalinists were never able to do, by contributing to the division of the fellowship of believers in Romania."

Warner is editor, Associated Baptist Press.

## capsules

**BAPTIST RADIO STATION TO BEGIN IN NICARAGUA:** MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government has granted the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua a license to operate an FM station in Managua, Nicaragua's capital. The station, called Baptist Radio, will begin broadcasting May 1, said David Daniell, Foreign Mission Board area media consultant for Middle America. Its format will include contemporary Christian music with a five-minute religious program at the top of each hour. Southern Baptist volunteers will help install broadcast equipment in March. The station's tower will be on the highest hill in the Managua area, said Daniell. He and Jim Palmer, a Southern Baptist missionary in Nicaragua, will help Baptists start the station.

**SENIOR ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CONFERENCE SET APRIL 27-30:** NASHVILLE — The 1992 National Discipleship Conference for Senior Adults will be held April 27-30 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. The preacher for the four-day conference will be Perry Sanders, pastor of First Church, Lafayette, La. David Dockery, an editor in the board's Bibles and books department and author of the 1991-92 Baptist doctrine book, *The Doctrine of the Bible*, will lead the Bible study.

**LITERACY MISSIONS GROWING, MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** ATLANTA (BP) — About 12% of Southern Baptist churches are involved in literacy missions, but more volunteers are needed to meet the demand, state workers said recently.

According to a survey by the Home Mission Board, 4,758 of the convention's 38,221 churches offer at least one of three literacy programs: conversational English, adult reading and writing, or children's tutoring. Moore said he hopes 15 to 20% of SBC churches will be involved in literacy missions by 1997. "One of any of the three forms of literacy ministries could be taking place in any church in our convention," he said. Statewide coordinators of literacy missions who met recently in Atlanta said they constantly need more volunteers for literacy ministry work.

**FIVE BAPTIST UNIVERSITIES TOP \$100 MILLION IN ENDOWMENT IN LATEST NATIONAL REPORT:** WASHINGTON (BP) — Five Southern Baptist-related universities — Samford in Alabama, Mercer in Georgia, Wake Forest in North Carolina, Baylor in Texas, and Richmond in Virginia — have topped the \$100 million level of endowment holdings, placing them in rare company among the nation's 3,500 accredited colleges and universities. Wake Forest tallied \$336 million to rank 38th in the nation in 1991. Richmond, at \$297 million, was 48th, Baylor, with \$264 million, was 56th. Samford, with \$111 million, was 112th; Mercer, at \$102 million, was 123rd. The statistics are part of a study by the National Association of College and University Business Officers, appearing in the Feb. 12 issue of *Chronicle of Higher Education*, a Washington-based journal.

## BSSB sponsors National Convocation on the Bible

By Frank Wm. White

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — A journey through the Bible in art and an additional 18 displays will highlight the Bible in the Celebration Gathering Place for participants in the National Convocation on the Bible in Nashville April 21-23.

The display of original teaching picture artwork will provide a panorama of Bible history, according to Doris Adams, art display coordinator.

The National Convocation on the Bible, sponsored by the Sunday School division of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be an opportunity to celebrate the message of the Bible as the foundation for the work of Southern Baptists in evangelism, Sunday School, and missions, according to convocation planners.

The art display will feature about 64 pieces of art in a chronological portrayal of Bible history, Adams said.

Other exhibitors will include the American Bible Society and Wycliffe Bible Translators, as well as several Sunday School Board components and other Southern Baptist agencies.

Persons in biblical character costumes will be in the gathering place area throughout the exhibit times and will be available to talk with participants, Herring said.

Writers will be available to autograph books at a location near the Baptist Book Store display, she said.

The board's Church Information System is planning to offer computer Bible games to allow participants to test their biblical skills, Herring said.

Convocation sessions will feature Bible preaching by Joel Gregory, pastor of First Church, Dallas, and Ken Hemphill, pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va. Bible studies will be led by Bill Hendricks, professor of Christian theology at Southern Seminary. There will be a commissioning service for Southern Baptist home and foreign missionaries during the Wednesday evening session.

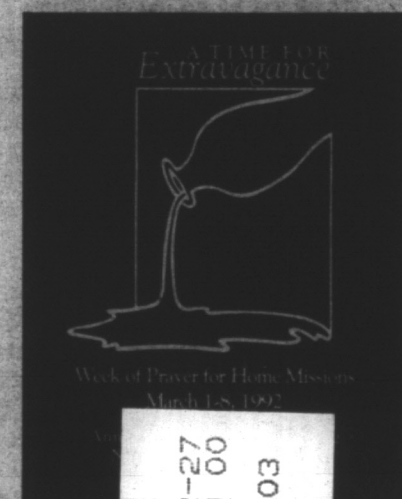
Registration for all events of the three-day convocation is \$60.

A one-day registration for Wednesday or Thursday activities is available for \$20. A Thursday fellowship dinner will cost \$14 for people not paying the three-day registration fee.

Nominations for a Sunday School teacher "Wall of Fame," a listing of persons with at least 25 years of teaching experience, will be accepted until March 1, according to Rick Edwards, Wall of Fame coordinator. Nominees should have demonstrated outstanding faithfulness to the ministries of their churches, he said.

Convocation registration forms and additional information are available from the National Convocation on the Bible information desk at (615) 251-3997.

White writes for BSSB.



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February 27, 1992